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W. C. Flagg, J. P. Reynolds or H. D. Emery of Illinois; or experience and popularity, like C. R. Dodge or Wm. Saunders (both at present connected therewith), there can be no doubt that it would be infinitely more efficient in promoting the interests for which it was created, and less open to criticism.

The agricultural interests of the country demand more attention and better representation. If our merchants lost one tithe of what our farmers annually lose from insect depredations alone, they would immediately seek and undoubtedly obtain adequate protection from the government; for the simple reason that they are organized and work as one body. The farmers, heretofore, have been disconnected—a mere rope of sand, without concerted plan or object. But at present they are building up a powerful organization which is rapidly extending its strengthening and unifying arms over the whole country. It is an organization which, if not perverted from its original aims, will soon become a very powerful lever in the promotion of the agricultural interests. May we not hope that through its instrumentality the plans and suggestions made by Dr. LeConte will at no distant day be realized!

In measures five and six (vol. vii, p. 722) as propounded in the paper, for the wholesale destruction of noxious insects, I have little confidence. Fires, lights, vessels of attractive or poisonous liquids are constantly recommended as means of counteracting the work of injurious insects; but my experience with them has been very unsatisfactory. Usually quite as many beneficial as injurious species, and very seldom any really injurious species, are thus captured; and at the best such measures are blind and inefficient ways of effecting that which can be otherwise effected with more certainty and satisfaction.—C. V. RILEY.

GEOLOGY.

REMAINS OF LAND PLANTS IN THE LOWER SILURIAN.—M. Lesquereux contributes an article to the "American Journal of Science and Arts" for Jan., 1874, in which he reports the discovery near Lebanon, Ohio, of fragments of Sigillaria in clay beds positively referrible to the Cincinnati group of the Lower Silurian. This is a remarkable discovery, as no land plants before this had been found lower down than the Lower Helderberg division of the upper Silurian in Gaspé, Canada. In Europe no land plant has yet been found below the Lower Devonian.

MICROSCOPY.

EMBEDDING TISSUES FOR SECTION.—Dr. William Rutherford, of King's College, London, prefers to embed tissue, which is to be cut without freezing, in a mixture of paraffine (5 parts) and hog's lard (1 part) melted together; this mixture melting at a lower temperature than the wax and oil mixture, and being less liable to become loose by shrinkage in cooling. Tissues that require freezing are to be embedded and frozen in a solution of gum arabic (5 oz.) in water (10 oz.) and spirits of camphor (2 dr.), which, when solidified by cold, slices "as easily as a piece of cheese." Dr. Rutherford's microtome consists essentially of a cylinder with a piston moved by a screw, the upper portion only of the cylinder, where the object is, being surrounded by a box to contain the freezing mixture, of powdered ice and salt; the freezing box is surrounded by flannel, and the water continually forming in it is drained off by a tube through the bottom of the box.

DISSECTING EMBRYOS.—W. K. Parker, Esq., late president of the Royal Microscopical Society, dissects early embryos under water, pinning them upon a cake composed of lamp-black and paraffine.

NOTES.

THE MEMORIAL TO AGASSIZ bids fair to be of such a character as will be gratifying to his family and most appropriate in showing an appreciation of his work. At a public meeting held in Boston on Feb. 13, a large number of gentlemen were present and it was decided that the fittest expression of gratitude for Agassiz' labors for science in this country, would be to insure the maintenance of the Museum which he worked so long and so faithfully to establish for the benefit of the country. It was agreed that at least $300,000 should be raised by subscription as a memorial fund for the purpose of endowing the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge. A large number of gentlemen, residing in various parts of the country, were named as a nucleus of a general committee for the purpose, as it was believed that the many friends to science all over the land, appreciating the worth